

# CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #15, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

MAY 8, 2015

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**2.7  
million**

Estimated Number of People in the Central African Republic (CAR) Requiring Humanitarian Assistance

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – April 2015

**1.5  
million**

Estimated Number of People in CAR Requiring Emergency Food Assistance

UN World Food Program (WFP) – January 2015

**436,100**

Approximate Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in CAR

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – May 2015

**43,600**

Approximate Number of IDPs in CAR's Capital City of Bangui

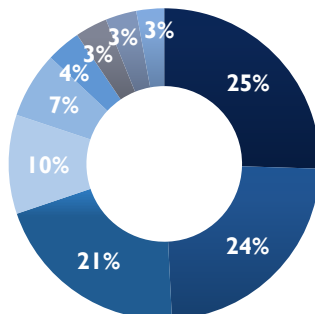
OCHA – May 2015

**462,000**

Approximate Number of Central African Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries

UNHCR – May 2015

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015



- Health (25%)
- Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (24%)
- Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (21%)
- Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (10%)
- Shelter & Settlements (7%)
- Agriculture & Food Security (4%)
- Economic Recovery & Market Systems (3%)
- Protection (3%)
- Nutrition (3%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015



- Local and Regional Procurement
- U.S. In-Kind Food Aid
- Food Vouchers

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The UN Security Council (UNSC) extends the mandate of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) by one year
- Armed groups commit to releasing children associated with their forces and halting child recruitment
- WFP delivers emergency food assistance to nearly 385,000 people in April

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO THE CRISIS IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA	\$14,582,259
USAID/FFP	\$48,554,287
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$29,250,000

**\$92,386,546**  
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The UNSC extended the MINUSCA mandate for one year in a unanimously adopted resolution on April 28. In the resolution, the UNSC reiterated concern for the humanitarian situation in CAR and called on all parties to allow unhindered access for the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance to populations in needs, particularly IDPs.
- In late April, international media reported allegations that peacekeepers—including soldiers from Chad, Equatorial Guinea, and France—may have sexually abused children at an IDP site in Bangui between December 2013 and June 2014. The allegations remain unconfirmed, and the Government of France (GoF) launched a criminal investigation regarding the situation on May 7.
- Armed actors continue to target WFP convoys traveling along major supply routes in CAR, according to the UN. Despite security challenges, WFP assistance reached approximately 517,000 and 385,000 beneficiaries in March and April, respectively.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## INSECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT

- On April 28, the UNSC extended MINUSCA's mandate by one year, including a peacekeeping troop ceiling of 10,750 military personnel. The UNSC noted that despite security improvements, the overall situation remains fragile. The UNSC formally established MINUSCA on April 10, 2014, and the operation officially launched on September 15, 2014.
  - The renewed mandate reaffirms MINUSCA's responsibility to protect civilians, support the implementation of political transition processes, facilitate safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, safeguard UN assistance efforts, and promote and protect human rights. The resolution also called on member states to contribute troops and police to MINUSCA and authorized French forces to continue providing operational support. The UNSC called for all parties to ensure the safety of humanitarian staff, condemning attacks against relief organizations and UN staff, as well as restrictions on humanitarian access.
  - The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) conducted a humanitarian needs assessment among IDPs and returnees in areas of northern Ouham Prefecture in early April. DRC staff visited two towns and four IDP sites in Ouham, surveying the needs of more than 2,000 IDPs and nearly 550 returnees. The assessed populations originally fled from armed group attacks in December 2014 and January 2015, which resulted in burned houses and destroyed food reserves. The assessment found that displaced and returning households required basic household items and other relief commodities. Affected populations also lacked access to latrines, hand washing supplies, and safe drinking water. DRC found food consumption scores—composite scores based on dietary diversity, food frequency, and relative nutritional importance of different food groups—within WFP's Poor consumption level range.
  - MINUSCA peacekeepers established a base in Markoundia town, Ouham, in late April to provide additional security for conflict-affected populations in the area following advocacy efforts by relief organizations. During the same period, UNHCR supported relief commodities distributions—including blankets, buckets, kitchen supplies, mats, and sanitary kits—to conflict-affected populations, including more than 1,100 returnees and 130 IDPs.
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## FOOD SECURITY

- Continued insecurity and looting by armed actors along WFP's main supply routes, particularly between Bangui and Kémo Prefecture's Sibut town, significantly hinder food assistance operations. Attacks on WFP's sub-office in Nana-Grébizi Prefecture's Kaga-Bandoro town have also negatively affected food distributions. WFP is coordinating with MINUSCA forces to reinforce patrols along supply routes and increase the frequency of accompanied convoys.
- The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP, as well as non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, continue preparations for the upcoming agricultural season. FAO recently secured additional funding to provide agricultural support to 2,800 households, increasing FAO's target to more than 89,000 households during the April and May planting season. WFP and partners are currently determining target populations in advance of providing food rations in May to protect seeds by limiting planting material consumption.
- WFP, in partnership with World Vision, launched a food voucher program in Ombella-M'Poko Prefecture's Yaloké town in mid-March, where hundreds of displaced Muslims have sheltered at a UN compound since 2014. A relatively improved security situation in the area has reportedly increased mobility for Muslim and other conflict-affected populations. The WFP voucher program aims to and economic opportunities improve access to local markets for an estimated 100,000 people with limited livelihood opportunities, prioritizing female-headed households. WFP plans to replicate the voucher program in Bangui in the coming weeks.
- Despite security-related logistical challenges, WFP emergency food assistance reached more than 517,000 conflict-affected people in CAR during March, representing 65 percent of its monthly goal. In addition, the agency distributed more than 2,600 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance to nearly 385,000 beneficiaries between April 1 and 26.
- USAID/WFP has provided \$27.5 million in FY 2015 funding to support WFP emergency food assistance across CAR, while also providing WFP with \$12 million and \$5.5 million to assist Central African refugees in Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, respectively.

## PROTECTION

- On May 5, eight armed groups—including anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka elements—committed to releasing children associated with their forces and halt child recruitment, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reports. The armed groups also pledged to provide immediate and unrestricted access to areas under their control for UNICEF and partner organizations to identify affected children. During the current crisis in CAR, armed actors have recruited between 6,000 and 10,000 children, according to UNICEF estimates. Discussions remain ongoing regarding the schedule for releasing children, reunification timelines, and mechanisms to provide long-term support. In 2013 and 2014, UNICEF and partners secured the release of approximately 3,300 children, including more than 650 girls, from armed groups in CAR.
  - In late April, media sources reported allegations that peacekeepers—deployed to protect civilians in CAR—may have sexually abused children at Bangui’s M’Poko International Airport IDP site between December 2013 and June 2014. The reported incidents—documented in an internal 2014 UN report obtained by international media—may have involved soldiers from Chad, Equatorial Guinea, and France. The reports indicate that the soldiers sexually exploited children in exchange for food and money; if true, these actions constitute a violation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The GoF launched a criminal investigation regarding the situation on May 7.
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## HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND SHELTER

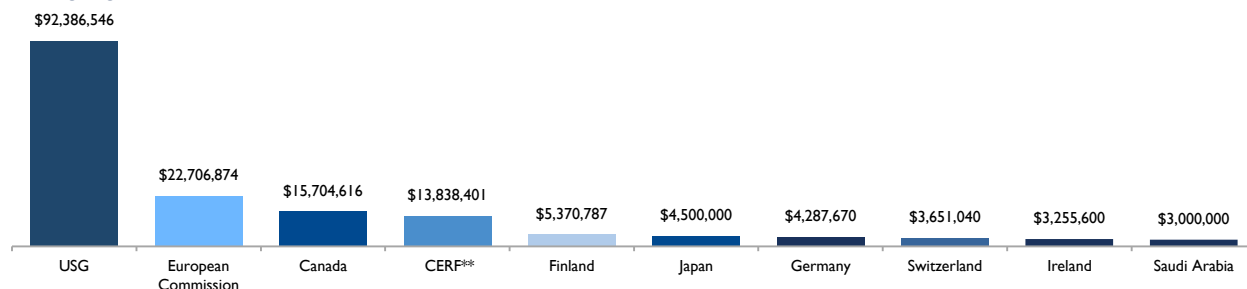
- Members of the Health Cluster—the coordinating body for health activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—estimate that only half of all health facilities in CAR are functioning. In 2014, Health Cluster members provided sufficient medical supplies to treat approximately 800,000 people and health care services to more than 615,000 people. While WHO reports that the number of conflict-related injuries have decreased in 2015, the more than 436,000 IDPs in CAR continue to require health assistance, particularly due to the continued risk of communicable diseases among displaced populations.
  - Relief actors are targeting approximately 22,700 Central African children for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) during 2015, according to the UN. As of late April, approximately 6,500 children—approximately 29 percent of the target population—had received treatment for SAM. Additionally, WFP’s nutrition program admitted more than 34,000 new beneficiaries between January and April, including nearly 12,700 children under five years of age.
  - UNHCR is providing nearly 430 shelter kits and supporting the construction of approximately 300 emergency shelters for nearly 730 IDP households in Bambari town, Ouaka Prefecture. Delivered to households able to construct their own homes, the UNHCR shelter kits include nails, plastic sheeting, poles, and roofing materials. As of April 27, UNHCR had supported the construction of 104 emergency shelters for the most vulnerable IDP households.
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## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- Several UN officials—including UNHCR and UN World Health Organization representatives—recently advocated for additional humanitarian support for CAR, warning that it risked becoming a forgotten crisis. As of May 8, donors had provided \$94.8 million—15 percent—of the \$613 million requested in the CAR 2015 Strategic Response Plan and only 9 percent of funds requested for refugee programs in neighboring countries. UN Senior Humanitarian Coordinator for CAR Claire Bourgeois noted that humanitarian agencies would struggle to meet basic humanitarian needs without increased support.
- To date in FY 2015, the U.S. Government (USG) is the largest donor to the humanitarian crisis in CAR, providing more than \$92 million in assistance.

## 2015 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\*

PER DONOR



\* Funding figures are as of May 8, 2015. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2015 calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect USG commitments in FY 2015, which began on October 1, 2014. USG funding addresses needs both within CAR and among CAR refugees and host communities in neighboring countries.

\*\* Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)—a pooled humanitarian fund established and managed by the UN to support underfunded emergencies.

## CONTEXT

- In December 2012, the Séléka armed alliance began to advance across CAR in opposition to then-President François Bozizé. On March 24, 2013, Séléka fighters entered Bangui, effectively seizing control of the country and triggering a period of widespread violence.
- Security conditions in CAR further deteriorated on December 5, 2013, when clashes erupted between militants associated with the now-dissolved Séléka alliance and anti-Balaka groups, composed of armed fighters that oppose ex-Séléka forces. As of May 2015, the security situation throughout CAR remained volatile, with continuing attacks against civilians. While relief agencies are working to assist conflict-affected populations, ongoing insecurity and logistics constraints impede humanitarian operations in Bangui and in more remote areas of CAR.
- In response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires David E. Brown reissued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in CAR for FY 2015 on October 1, 2014.

## USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CAR CRISIS PROVIDED IN FY 2015<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
Concern	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Lobaye and Ombella-M'Poko Prefectures	\$1,504,768
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Ouham	\$1,700,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,453,786
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Protection	Ouham-Pendé	\$1,500,000
Mentor Initiative	Health	Ouham, Ouham-Pendé	\$1,400,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
	Program Support		\$23,705
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$14,582,259</b>

USAID/FFP <sup>3</sup>			
UNICEF	374 MT Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) for children experiencing SAM, other nutrition activities	Countrywide	\$3,500,000
WFP	Title II-Funded Emergency Food Assistance for General Food Distributions, Supplementary Feeding Programs, Food for Assets, and Emergency School Feeding using 5,150 MT of U.S. and 2,958 MT of locally and regionally procured commodities	Countrywide	\$27,500,000
	7,430 MT of Title II-Funded Emergency Food Assistance for distribution to CAR refugees	Cameroon	\$12,000,000
	International Disaster Assistance-funded Cash Transfers for CAR refugees	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$5,554,287
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$48,554,287</b>
State/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Protection and Assistance for IDPs and Victims of Conflict	Countrywide	\$5,750,000
UNHCR	Protection and Assistance for IDPs and Refugees	Countrywide	\$11,800,000
	Protection and Assistance for Refugees	Cameroon	\$11,700,000
<b>TOTAL State/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$29,250,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CAR CRISIS IN FY 2015</b>			<b>\$92,386,546</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USG humanitarian funding responds to urgent needs among populations inside CAR and refugees and returnees who fled violence in CAR for neighboring countries.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual amounts as of May 8, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>